

BOLLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1895,

*Read at a Meeting of the Bollington District
Council, held on 5th March, 1896.*

To the Chairman and Members

OF THE

Bollington Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting to your Council my customary Annual Report upon the health of your District, for the year 1895. I very much regret that it is not in my power to present you with a more favourable one. For, as will be seen, not only has the death rate been unusually excessive—thus representing a large amount of sickness, but I may add, too, that the number of births has fallen off in a most remarkable manner. It is somewhat difficult to account for this state of things, which doubtless may have been due to different causes. It will be remembered that one of the largest mills in the district has been standing idle during the whole of the past twelve months, throwing a good many people out of work. Now, it is well known that want and poverty, whether occasioned by loss of wages, or otherwise, has a tendency to lower the vitality and produce disease. While attacks of influenza in previous years, will likewise have enfeebled the constitution of many, who ultimately fell victims to other diseases. Nor, must we omit to make mention of a serious epidemic of measles, that occurred among children, in the latter half of the year.

During the year 1895, the deaths of 83 persons (39 males and 44 females) have been registered in your district, giving a death-rate of 21·2 per thousand for the year, a figure which has only once been exceeded during the past twelve years, as against a death-rate of 14·6 in the two preceeding years. During the same period the births of 52 males and 33 females (together 85) have been registered in the district, showing a birth-rate of 21·7 per 1,000, as against a birth-rate of 27·9 in 1894. I would here remark, that the birth-rate of England and Wales in 1895 was 30·3 per 1000 of the population, and the death-rate in England and Wales was only 18·7 per 1000. The 83 deaths registered in 1895, included 14 of infants under one year of age, 46 of persons between one year and 65 years, and 23 of persons, 65 years and upwards. Of the 83 deaths in the district, 8 were attributed to zymotic disease, corresponding to a rate of 1·7 per 1000, which is the same as in 1894. The 83 deaths also included 22 which were referred to bronchitis and other lung diseases, 6 to phthisis, 6 to epilepsy and other brain diseases, 5 to heart disease, 2 to Bright's disease, and 1 to each of the following diseases, viz:—anæmia, cancer, cirrhosis of liver, enteritis, gastritis, infantile diarrhœa, influenza, peritonitis and uræmia, and two were inquests.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—There were 20 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, against 69 in 1894, viz:—11 scarlatina, 4 erysipelas, 4 typhoid fever, and 1 continued fever. There being no Isolation Hospital in the district, the whole of these cases were treated in their own homes, and all recovered except one.

SCARLATINA.—The first case occurred in Adlington Road, in July, but the source of infection could not be ascertained. The front room of the cottage in which this patient resided, being used as a small draper's shop, it was hardly possible to keep the child properly isolated. The second case also occurred in the same

row of houses, infection being derived from the first one. Cases three and four, both children of one family living in the same house, occurred in Wellington Road, in September; the eldest of whom having gone to make a purchase at the before mentioned shop, had probably received the infection there, which in a few days was again transmitted to one of her brothers. Of the remaining cases; six of which were children, two occurred in October, two in November, and two in December, but except that three of them attended the same school, I was not able to trace their origin, they did not, however, appear to be in any way connected with the first four. The last case to be mentioned, a somewhat severe one, occurred in Mill Lane, only just within the boundary of the district, in November. The patient's husband who worked in an adjoining district had been suffering from sore throat. Though there were two children at this house, which is a fairly good sized one, we were able to keep the patient isolated, and there was no extension.

ERYSIPELAS.—Four cases of this disease were notified, viz:—An infant and three adults, but were all of a mild character, and soon recovered.

TYPHOID AND CONTINUED FEVERS.—Five cases in all. The first recorded was that of a young man in Adlington Road, in February, who came home ill from Manchester, where he had been working for some time past. Upon careful inquiry I could not trace any antecedent case, either at his lodgings or neighbourhood. His death took place on the 21st of February, and was certified as due to peritonitis. The second case, the nature of which was at first doubtful, occurred in Ingersley Road, in August, infection probably from Macclesfield, where patient was employed in day time. There was no extension. The next two cases, brother and sister, both occurred in the same house in Defiance Street, in November, the former of which was a single young man, who fell ill while residing in Manchester; on reaching the house of his parents at Bollington, the nature of the sickness was for a time doubtful, but eventually proved to be typhoid fever; afterwards a sister who had assisted the mother in nursing, took the infection herself, both patients recovered and up to the present time there has been no further extension. The last case notified was that of a young girl living with her parents in Princess Street, and occurred in December. I attribute this case to foul exhalations from the grids and drains near the house which are defective. Moreover, the cottage where this patient resides, is now used as a beerhouse and is situated at the end of a block of badly arranged dwellings, some of which are back to back houses, and hardly habitable. With regard to the whole of the infectious diseases to which reference has been made, I may point out that upon receiving information of their existence I at once sent the inspector with a supply of disinfectants, to give the necessary instructions as well as to enquire and examine into the sanitary condition of the dwellings, I also visited the houses myself, and as soon as I considered the sick to be free from infectiousness, gave orders for the sick room to be sulphured.

MEASLES.—An outbreak of this disease, in a mild form, commenced early in August, and lasted till the end of November, during the first two months, when the weather was very warm, though the disease was found in almost every part of the district, there were no deaths, but directly the cold wintry weather of October set in, it began to assume a more severe character, or rather lung complications, which always accompany measles, became especially dangerous, and as a consequence 5 deaths occurred in October, and 3 in November. The infectiousness and fatality of measles is well known, but unfortunately there is no obligation on the part of householders to report its presence to the Sanitary Authority, therefore, one seldom hears anything about it till too late to be of much use in checking its spread; nor am I able to form any correct estimate of the number of cases that occurred, which, however, must have been very large, I may say that it is five years since a similar epidemic of measles appeared in the district, when five deaths were recorded. The most we could do during the outbreak, was to advise that all children

coming from infected homes should be kept away from school. I would here thank the different teachers and school managers for their willing assistance on this, as well as previous occasions.

INFLUENZA.—Several sharp attacks of influenza were met with in the district, more particularly among aged persons during the first quarter of the year, one of which ended fatally in March.

SCHOOLS.—In my report for 1893, attention was drawn for the second time, to the over-crowded and insanitary state of the Church Day Schools; these have now been enlarged and considerably improved, but the playground remains small, and there are too many trees about.

RECREATION GROUND.—On the 6th of March, I suggested to your Council the desirability of purchasing a certain field, which I then named, as being centrally situated, to be used as a children's playground, at the same time pointing out that this would enable you to construct a new road, extending from Park Street to Lord Street. In carrying out such improvement it might be necessary in the first place, to apply to the Local Government Board for a provisional order, but I am convinced that it would be a public benefit, besides finding work for a number of the unemployed.

BYE-LAWS.—The present bye-laws having been in force since the old Local Board was first constituted, require careful revision. I also think that it would be found advantageous and useful if the Council were to adopt the Private Street Works Act, 1892.

CEMETERY.—It would seem that much difficulty has been experienced in trying to acquire an eligible site for a public burial ground. I think that under the circumstances, the best way will be for the Council first of all to select two or three suitable plots of ground, and then to obtain compulsory purchasing powers. In making such selection it appears to me that the following are the chief points to be kept in view—

(1) The land should be of sufficient area, and extend to meet the prospective requirements of the District and neighbourhood during, at least, the next 70 or 100 years.

(2) It should be conveniently situated and easy of access.

(3) It must not be in too close proximity to any dwelling house, so as to become a nuisance or injurious to the public health.

WATER SUPPLY.—Satisfactory progress has been made with the waterworks during the year. On August 12th, 1895, Mr. Radford stopped the boring at 200 feet, as he believed there would be sufficient water at that depth.

SMOKE NUISANCES.—I have again to direct your attention to frequent nuisances arising from the emission of dense clouds of smoke from some of the chimneys in the district. At a few of the mills, however, provision has already been made for consuming their smoke, and where this has been done, I am informed, that it has resulted in a considerable saving of coal. In a case of smoke nuisance from Bollington, tried by the County Justices at Macclesfield, on December 24th, 1894, in which I was called upon to give evidence, an order was made for its discontinuance. I am glad to say this has been complied with.

In conclusion, I beg to append with this report that of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1895, together with the usual tables furnished by the Local Government Board.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Bollington,

JAMES ALLEN, Medical Officer of Health.

10th February, 1896.

MORTALITY.

From the 5th December, 1894, to 28th December, 1895, the Total Number of Deaths in the District from all causes in the Homes of the People was 83.

DEATH RATE.

According to the Population at the Census of April 1st, 1891 (3,903), 83 Deaths would give a rate per 1,000 of 21·2.

DETAILS OF DEATH.

No.	Date	RESIDENCE.	SEX.	AGE.		OCCUPATION.	CAUSE OF DEATH.
1.	Jan. 3...	E...High-street.....	M	2½ years.....	F	Labourer.....	Tuberculosis.
2.	4...	E...Shrigley-road	F	45 years.....		Hat Trimmer	Bronchitis.
3.	16 ..	E...Foundry-street	F	32 years.....	H	Cotton operative	Anæmia convulsions.
4.	18...	E...Hope-street	M	70 years.....		Tea dealer	Bronchitis. (Inquest).
5.	29 ..	E...Ingersley-road	M	54 years.....		Beer seller.....	Chronic Bronchitis—anasarca.
6.	30...	E...Park-street	M	70 years.....		Tailor	Heart disease.
7.	Feb. 4...	E...Shrigley-road	F	47 years.....	H	Cotton operative	Ovarian tumour—syncope.
8.	6...W ..	8. Lower houses	M	48 years.....		Labourer.....	Pneumonia—syncope.
9.	8...E...	Beeston-brow	F	51 years.....		Dressmaker	Scirrhous cancer of breast.
10.	10...	E...Shrigley-road	F	65 years.....		Widow	Heart disease.
11.	13...W ..	Dog and Partridge Inn	F	33 years.....	H	Soldier	Acute gastritis.
12.	21...W ..	Adlington-road	M	22 years.....		Labourer.....	Peritonitis Exhaustion.
13.	Mar. 11...	W...Ladley-street	F	65 years.....		Gentleman.....	Influenza—congestion of lungs.
14.	13...W ..	Wellington-road	M	63 years.....	H	Railway Inspector.....	Enteritis melæna.
15.	21...E...	Ingersley-road	M	11 months ..	F	Carter	Pneumonia.
16.	25...E...	Queen-street	M	20 years.....		Cotton operative	Pneumonia.
17.	30...E...	Lord-street	F	26 years.....		Cotton operative	Phthisis pulmonalis.
18.	Apl. 2...	E...Lord-street	F	22 years.....		Labourer.....	Phthisis pulmonalis.
19.	17...E...	Oldham-street.....	M	48 years.....		Labourer.....	Broncho pneumonia.
20.	22...E...	Queen-street	M	51 years.....		Labourer.....	Bronchitis.
21.	26...E...	Ingersley-road.....	M	32 years.....		Packer	Uræmia.
22.	28...E...	Palmerston-street	M	33 years.....		Painter	Acute pneumonia.

DETAILS OF DEATH.—Continued.

No.	Date 1895.	RESIDENCE.	SEX.	AGE.		OCCUPATION.	CAUSE OF DEATH.
23.	27...	E... Church-street	F	8 hours.....	M	Cotton operative	Debility from birth.
24.	May 3...	E... Church-street	F	78 years.....	H	Book-keeper (retired)	Senile decay.
25.	5...	E... Water-street	F	66 years.....		Widow	Chronic bronchitis.
26.	16...	E... Water-street	M	11 months...	F	Cotton operative	Tabes mesenterica.
27.	18...	E... Beeston Mount	F	68 years.....		Widow	Chronic bronchitis.
28.	29...	E... Shrigley-road	F	6 years.....	F	Platter	Phthisis pulmonalis.
29.	June 8...	W... Wellington-road	F	70 years.....		Housekeeper	Senile decay.
30.	8...	E... Water-street	F	8 months...	F	Labourer	Infantile convulsions.
31.	14...	E... Palmerston-street	F	53 years.....		Cotton operative	Heart disease.
32.	18...	W... Lower houses	F	18 years.....		Cotton weaver	Epileptiform convulsions.
33.	21...	E... Palmerston-street	F	6 years.....	F	Coal merchant	Ulceration of mouth.
34.	25...	W... Lower houses	F	69 years.....	H	Cotton operative	Pneumonia.
35.	30...	W... Lower houses	M	74 years.....		Watchman	Chronic Brights' disease.
36.	July 8...	W... Round gardens	M	76 years.....		Retired Chemist	Senile decay.
37.	12...	W... Adlington-road	F	70 years.....		Silk Weaver	Bronchitis.
38.	23...	E... Shrigley-road	F	22 months...	F	Brickmaker	Meningitis.
39.	31...	W... Wellington-road	F	72 years.....		Cotton operative	Right hemiplegia.
40.	Aug. 1...	W... Wellington-road	M	68 years.....	F	Retired grocer	Heart disease—syncope.
41.	6...	E... Church-street	F	4 years.....		Grocer	Pneumonia.
42.	8...	E... Shrigley-road	M	71 years.....		Joiner and builder	Cerebral hæmorrhage.
43.	8...	E... Lord-street	F	28 days.....	F	Labourer	Debility from Birth—asthænia.
44.	9...	E... Palmerston-street	M	18 hours...	F	Stonemason	Premature birth.
45.	13...	E... Ingersley-road	M	11 months...	F	Cotton operative	Marasmus.
46.	17...	E... Ingersley-road	F	86 years.....		Housekeeper	Senile decay.
47.	Aug. 20...	W... Wellington-road	M	24 years.....		Schoolmaster	Phthisis Pulmonalis.
48.	20...	E... Defiance-street	F	76 years.....		Widow	Senile decay
49.	27...	E... Silver-street	M	3 months...	M	Cotton operative	Congenital syphilis.
50.	31...	W... Princess-street	M	56 years.....		Beer seller	Leucocythæmia.
51.	Sept. 2...	E... Church-street	F	55 days.....	F	Labourer	Marasmus.
52.	8...	E... Water-street	M	3 months...	F	Widow	Tabes mesenterica.
53.	10...	E... High-street	F	76 years.....		Widow	Chronic bronchitis.
54.	24...	E... Beeston-brow	F	17 months...	M	Charwoman	Hydrocephalus.

DETAILS OF DEATH.—Continued.

No.	Date 1895.	RESIDENCE.	SEX.	AGE.	OCCUPATION.	CAUSE OF DEATH.
55.	25...	E... Church-street	M	29 years.....	Labourer.....	Fracture of skull (Inquest).
56.	Oct. 2...	E... Water-street.....	F	12 months ...	Hatter	Measles—pneumonia.
57.	2...	E... Water-street.....	F	2 months ...	Cotton operative	Diarrhoea.
58.	3...	E... High-street	F	2 years.....	Hatter	Measles—convulsions.
59.	11...	E... Palmerston-street	M	35 years.....	Cotton operative	Epilepsy.
60.	15...	E... Foundry-street	M	8 months ...	Painter	Tabes mesenterica.
61.	18... W...	Wellington-road.....	M	80 years.....	Cotton operative	Senile decay.
62.	19... W...	Princess-street.....	F	34 years.....	Cotton operative	Phthisis Pulmonalis.
63.	22...	E... Palmerston-street	F	4 years.....	Cotton operative	Measles—pneumonia.
64.	25...	E... Palmerston-street	M	3 years.....	Cotton operative	Measles—pneumonia.
65.	28...	E... Beeston Mount	F	2 years.....	Labourer.....	Measles—pneumonia.
66.	Nov. 1...	E... Water-street	F	53 years.....	Widow.....	Heart disease.
67.	5...	E... Church-street	M	19 months ...	Beer seller	Bronchitis.
68.	6...	E... Chapel-street	M	16 months ...	Labourer.....	Bronchitis.
69.	8...	E... Church-street	M	21 months ...	Gar'tener.....	Capillary bronchitis.
70.	11... W...	Grinshaw-lane	M	16 months ...	Plumber and painter.....	Measles, broncho pneumonia.
71.	13... F...	Queen-street	F	11 months ...	Cotton operative	Measles, bronchitis.
72.	14... E...	Palmerston-street	F	68 years.....	Widow.....	Bright's disease.
73.	18... F...	Shrigley-road	F	51 years.....	Coal miner	Phthisis pulmonalis.
74.	18... E...	Chapel-street	M	16 months ...	Labourer.....	Measles.
75.	19... W...	Adlington-road	M	16 days.....	Hatter	Debility from birth.
76.	29... W...	Wellington-road.....	M	45 years.....	Cotton operative	Bright's disease.
77.	Dec. 2...	E... Lord-street	F	14 months ...	Hatter	Infantile convulsions.
78.	5... W...	Wellington-road.....	M	81 years.....	Silk weaver.....	Senile decay.
79.	6... E...	Shrigley-road	F	36 years.....	Millwright	Cirrhosis of liver.
80.	6... W...	Royal Oak, Princess-st.M	M	72 years.....	Innkeeper	Chronic bronchitis.
81.	23... W...	26, Lower houses	M	63 years.....	Pointsmen	Asthma and bronchitis.
82.	24... E...	High-street	F	60 years.....	Spinster	Chronic bronchitis.
83.	28... W...	Round gardens	F	72 years.....	Clothes mangler.....	Bronchitis.

Nos. 17, 18, 47, 63 and 64 did not belong to the District.

A TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1895, in the BOLLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT,
classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES. AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES. DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.						Total.		
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Measles.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.		Injuries.	All other Diseases.
BOLLINGTON EAST, or that portion situated on the East of the Canal and Aqueduct.....	59	13	14	2	2	17	11	Under 5 5 upwards	7 ...	1 ...	... 4	5 11	... 4	... 1	14 12	27 32
BOLLINGTON WEST, or that portion being on West of the Canal and Aqueduct	24	1	1	0	3	7	12	Under 5 5 upwards	1 ...	... ...	... 2	... 6	... 1	... ...	1 13	2 22
Totals.....	83	14	15	2	5	24	23	Under 5 5 upwards	8 ...	1 ...	... 6	5 17	... 5	... 1	15 25	29 54
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto .....	...	...	2	...	2	1	...	Under 5 5 upwards	2 ...	... 3	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	2 3

B TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS,
coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the
BOLLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT, classified according to DISEASES,
AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.			
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1895.		Scarlatina	Enteric of Typhoid	Continued Fever	Erysipelas
BOLLINGTON EAST, or that portion situated on the East of the Canal and Aqueduct	2764	2764	85 Localities Combined }	Under 5	...	...	1
				5 upwds	2	1	2
BOLLINGTON WEST, or that part being on the West of the Canal and Aqueduct.....	1139	1139		Under 5	...	...	...
				5 upwds	2	...	1
Totals.....	3903	3903	85	Under 5	...	...	1
				5 upwds	4	1	3

“ Notification of Infectious Disease ” has been Compulsory in the District since January 1st, 1890.
The District has no Isolation Hospital.

C TABLE SHOWING the NUMBER of DEATHS from the Principal ZYMOTIC DISEASES, and their proportion to other Diseases, in 10 years (from 1886 to 1895 inclusive).

DISEASES.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	Total in 10 years.
Measles .....	...	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	...	8	14
Scarlatina .....	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	1	7	...	12
Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	0
Croup .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	4	...	...	...	1
Whooping-Cough .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
{ Typhus .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
{ Enteric or Typhoid	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
{ Other or Doubtful .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	2	4	3	3	2	...	2	...	...	...	16
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	0
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Puerperal fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Total Zymotic Diseases	3	5	6	7	8	2	7	1	8	8	55
Total other Diseases	70	47	65	60	77	60	67	56	49	75	626
Total from all Diseases	73	52	71	67	85	62	74	57	57	83	681

To the Urban District Councillors.

Bollington, 10th February, 1896.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Sixth Annual Report, showing briefly, the amount of Sanitary work done in the Bollington Urban District, during the year 1895. In every case of infectious disease, as soon as notified to your authority, I have endeavoured to carry out the instructions of the Medical Officer of Health.

- (1). As regards isolation of the Sick so far as possible.
- (2). Distribution of disinfectants with full direction as to their use.
- (3). Careful examination of house and surrounding buildings where illness has broken out.
- (4). Fumigation of infected premises on termination of sickness.

I have attended all the ordinary monthly meetings of the Highway Committee, besides several others, when asked to do so.

In all cases of infectious disease I have given notice to the School Teachers, and Mill Managers, when necessary.

I have specially visited and inspected 30 different lots of property in the district throughout the year, and reported upon the same to your authority.

Among the nuisances were found the following:—

Ashpits uncovered and very wet	...	...	...	9
Defective Drains	...	...	...	8
Privy too near dwelling	...	...	...	1
Polluted stream of water	...	...	...	1
Night-Soil after emptying allowed to remain a long time near dwelling	...	...	...	1
				<hr/> 20

I have supervised the emptying of ashpits and removal of night-soil, the number of loads carted away by farmers was 448, as compared with 602 in the previous year. The number removed by Mr. William Challener was 79, against 43 in 1894.

I have inspected the dairies and milk shops, 17 in number, and found them clean and well kept.

I have inspected the four slaughter houses in the district, one of which has been newly erected, and found them clean and in good order.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS ALLEN,

Nuisance Inspector.